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Franklin F. Gould Correspondence

Franklin F. Gould

Maine State Library

Hilda

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GOULD, Franklin F.

b. Lisbon, October 8, 1878

Harper & Brothers
49 East 33rd Street
New York 16, New York

Franklin F. Gould was born October 8, 1878, the fifth child in a family of eight. His father was Thomas Jordan Gould, a farmer and a Civil War Veteran, who lived on the farm that his father had cleared from a wilderness on the side of a ridge in what is now Lisbon, Maine. His mother, in later life wrote a book, "The Science of Feeding Babies" which enjoyed considerable circulation.

Young Franklin attended the ungraded Lisbon Ridge School until he was twelve years old, and was then admitted to the Lisbon Falls High School. At fifteen he was working in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and then went on to Boston. After a time he went down to Newport, as foreman in the department store where he had worked. Due to financial setbacks, the business was fast folding up, so he went back to Boston and worked for the Boston Elevated Railway. Here he had the chance to study further. After the two year course with a correspondence school, he took a civil service examination and landed a job in the Railway Mail Service.

In the meantime, he had married Hilda Jenkins, and they bought a house in Medford, Mass., but sold it after six years and bought their present home in Freeport, Maine. The Goulds have four children, two sons and two daughters.

At 62, Gould retired from the Railway Mail Service and devoted his time to raising fruit and gardens. At 65, he became restless, brought an old typewriter down from the attic, and taught himself to type by the trial and error method. The Saturday Evening Post bought his first effort "My Wonderful Uncle Levi," which encouraged him to go on. Harper's Magazine subsequently published "Maine Was Never Like That" and a book, A MAINE MAN IN THE MAKING will be published by Harper & Brothers on March 29, 1950.

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March 27, 1950

Mr. Franklin F. Gould
Freeport
Maine

Dear Mr. Gould:

Congratulations on your book, A MAINE MAN IN THE MAKING. We have had the privilege of seeing an advance copy, which the publishers were kind enough to send us, because the State Library notes new Maine books for the Bulletin of the Maine Library Association. It is a fine book, full of good writing, amusement, nostalgia, and ever so many things that go to make a lastingly popular book. We are delighted with it, and we know that the public will be.

Usually we write to Maine authors about presenting inscribed copies of their books to the Maine Author Collection. Under the present circumstances, we already have a gift copy of A MAINE MAN IN THE MAKING, so we ask only that we have permission to send it to you for an inscription. May we do this?

We have added the title to our order list, of course, and we expect to have many calls for your book. We do hope it is only the first, and that your "retirement" will give you opportunity for further literary work. Such admirably honest Maine books are always in demand, and a source of recurring pleasure to readers.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

Freeport, Maine. Mar. 28th., 1950.

MAR 28

Hilda Mac Leod Jacobs,

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

Your name intrigues me strangely; My wife's name is Hilda and her mother was a Mac Leod. My daughter Kathryn Mac Leod (Gould) Ball once made a trip to Isle Of Skye to visit the home of The Mac Leod.

I shall be very pleased to inscribe any books that you care to send me. I will be at the Corner Music And Book Store in Augusta on Mar. 31st. from 3 to 6 P.M. and would be pleased to meet any one of that name. Thanks for your kind remarks about my book.

Sincerely yours
Franklin F. Gould
Franklin F. Gould.